

ANNOUCEMENT

THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
E1 DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL
AFFAIRS
Announces Scholarship Programs
for the academic year 2018/2019
for foreigners
Registered in Undergraduate and Postgraduate
In Greek universities

The scholarship program provides a budget for relocation fees, monthly allowance as well as books and supplies, together with medical care in state hospitals. Applications detailing eligibility requirement for each of the scholarship categories should be downloaded, filled out completely, including all documents required and must be sent to the Greek Embassy Of Lebanon before Friday 20 July 2018.

For further assistance you can either contact us at comhel@idm.net.lb or contact the Greek Embassy .



الجمعية الخيرية اليونانية في بيروت
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΣ ΒΗΡΥΤΟΥ
COMMUNAUTÉ HELLÉNIQUE DE BIENFAISANCE DE BEYROUTH

The Greek Community Of Beirut Cultural Center
is conducting
The "2018 Open Photography Competition"
dedicated to professionals and talented amateurs
on the theme "2 COUNTRIES, 1 CULTURE".

Stay tuned for further details, registration and rules. We will communicate them through emails and social media.

Focus is on an image related either to Lebanon or Greece reflecting the similarity of culture. A unique opportunity to present your work to a jury composed of professionals, to earn credibility and global exposure besides valuable gifts.

Questions or comments? Kindly use the following:

Email us at comhel@idm.net.lb

Dekwaneh - Parallel Towers 232 - Bloc A - 2nd & 3rd Floor

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Monday to Friday from 10:00 am to 9:00pm

Website : greekcommunityofbeirut.com

Facebook : Greek Community of Beirut (Official Group)

Follow us on Instagram account [greekcomm](https://www.instagram.com/greekcomm).



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Ta Nea

Volume 1, Issues 5 & 6
Summer 2018

Here comes the Sun! "Kalo Kalokairi!"

Dear Member,

Here is a double issue with a foretaste of the season: Events, days out, conferences and many other activities! As you already know, Greek culture embrace all kind of wishes, starting from the 1st day of the week, 1st day of the month, or even each season. Nevertheless, "Καλο Καλοκαίρι" is not only connected to the weather condition nor the wishes for a pleasant summer: it is a deeper need to slow down and enjoy vacations, being in a good mood ... A way-out ticket for all access to a Greek summer day dream, *Καλο Καλοκαίρι!*

On May 10, **Mr. Terrence Quick**, Greek Deputy Foreign Minister of the diaspora, Ambassador **Maria Theodorou** Director of the Diplomatic office of Mr. Quick, and **Mr. Photis Photiou**, Presidential Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs & Overseas Cypriots, in the presence of Cyprus Ambassador in Lebanon **Mrs. Christina Rafti**, **Mr. Hadjithomas**, Charge d'Affaires at the Greek Embassy, and **Mr. Leousis**, Consul General at the Greek Embassy of Lebanon, met with

the members of the Greek community at our cultural center, and were able to discuss several subjects related to local issues such as the good cooperation between both countries besides other topics. Amongst the presents were **Mr. Bassam Obeid**, President of the League of Lebanese Graduates from Greek Universities L.L.G.G.U., **Mrs. Voula Lagakou** from the Greek Club, **Mr. Antoun Achkar**, President of the Tripoli Club and their respective members.

Mr. Photis Photiou, also met the committee members of the **Cyprus Community in Lebanon Association's** in

the presence of Cyprus Ambassador in Lebanon **Mrs. Christina Rafti** and Cyprus Consul **Mr. Kyriakos Poyiadjis**, and discuss future collaboration and ways to promote the Cypriot Community.



The audience at the Greek Community Cultural Center and at the Embassy of Cyprus



Newsletter Spotlight

- ◆ Our ancestors... Phoenicians and Greeks
- ◆ Cultural excursions to Tyre and North Lebanon
- ◆ Official exams of the Greek courses' school

Did You know?

The Lady of Ro , Despina Achladioti

(1890-1982) was a member of the Greek Resistance during W.W.II. In 1927, she sailed with her husband from Kastellorizo island to the smaller island of Ro, where they lived secluded . Every day, Despina would raise and lower the Greek flag, despite weather conditions or war. This small act was recognized by the Greek state upon her death on 13 may 1982, when she was buried there with full military honors. She embodies a spirit of pride and determination which many Greeks identify with.



The Greek Community of Beirut activities

SINCE ITS FOUNDATION IN THE NINETEEN TWENTIES, THE GREEK COMMUNITY OF BEIRUT AIMS TO DEVELOP, STRENGTHEN AND REINFORCE THE CULTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN LEBANON AND GREECE.

Activities at our Center for the summer season include many cultural, educational and social events in collaboration with organizations, building connections and engendering trust between both countries Lebanon and Greece, through members' community.

The tailor made program of events we have proposed, including lectures, days out, Greek language courses and official exams, was an essential pillar in promoting awareness of the Hellenic culture in the region. Nevertheless, Lebanese roots were not neglected neither: members who registered to the Tyre excursion were able to learn and discover beautiful sites of Lebanon. This successful journey has opened out new opportunities thus the Greek Community of Beirut organized another cultural excursion to North Lebanon to discover some old and unknown monasteries on Saturday June 30, on a special guided tour.

At the same time, the kids' community were able to visit the new museum of the Central Bank, in a private guided tour.

Following some members demand, dance workshops for *Sirtaki* were offered by



Mr. Terrence Quick and Mr. Photis Photiou.

While visiting in Tyre the artisanal village named "Les Ateliers de Tyr" in the presence of Dr. Maha El Khalil

Mrs. Marilena Caponis in a joyful and friendly atmosphere.

We have many cultural events a year to please all tastes and ages, so we expect you to join us the soonest!

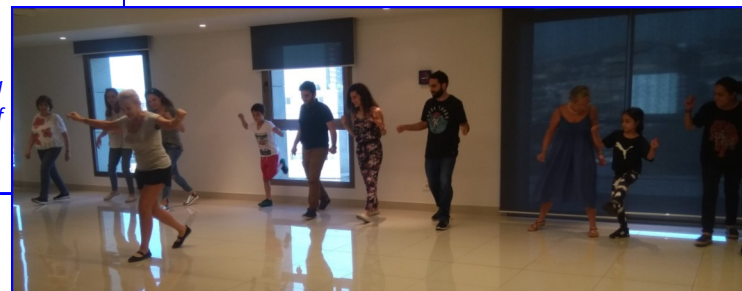


"OUR CENTER REMAINS THE MEETING POINT FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL DISCIPLINES, LANGUAGES AND LIVING CULTURES, ACTING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GREEK EMBASSY AND OTHER LOCAL PARTNERS".



Discovering the Central Bank Museum...

Mrs Caponis teaching the basic steps of Sirtaki

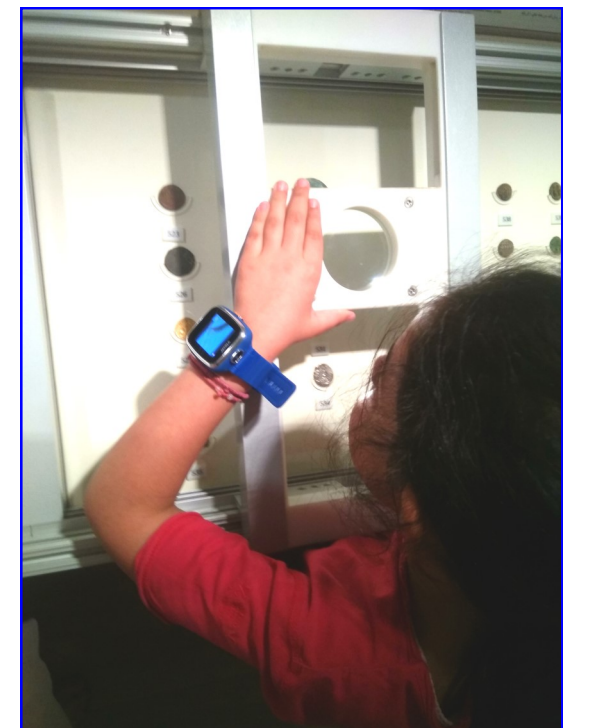


Exploring the Central Bank Museum of Beirut

The *Banque Du Liban Museum* is the first money Museum in the region to present 16 interactive stages and games.

On May 19, the Greek Community Of Beirut organized a special visit to the BDL Museum to all the members and the students enrolled in the Greek courses. Visitors were able to see a complete collection of original and rare banknotes from 1919 to date besides a selection of valuable coins dating back to 5th century B.C displayed in the numismatic gallery, covering the Persian, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Arab and Crusaders periods.

They also discovered a selection of international banknotes from 225 states, some of which are non-existent anymore; a documentary exploring the history of the currency in Lebanon, a brief introduction on the creation and circulation of money, and finally an informative video showing the process of fabrication of Lebanese banknotes and their high-tech security features. Interactive games enabled our kids to hold a 3kg real gold bar, and discover by weighting themselves on a special scale how many of them it would take to make up the entire Lebanese gold reserve.



The Cyprus Community in Lebanon Association

Arts & Culture Event by C.C.L.A

On the evening of 25th April, 2018, the C.C.L.A, Cyprus Community in Lebanon Association, in coordination with the American University of Beirut had the honor and privilege of welcoming the renowned pianist, Dr. Nicolas Costantinou, for a piano concert at the Assembly Hall of A.U.B. Dr. Costantinou is a lecturer at the University of Nicosia and in charge of the **performing section** of the music department of the University.

With a formidable technique of interpreting Chopin, Dr. Nicolas Costantinou dazzled an audience of over 400 people. Among some of the distinguished guests were the Swiss Ambassador Mr. & Mrs. Rieben, Mr. Leousis, Consul General at the Greek Embassy of Lebanon, the Cyprus Consul Kyriakos



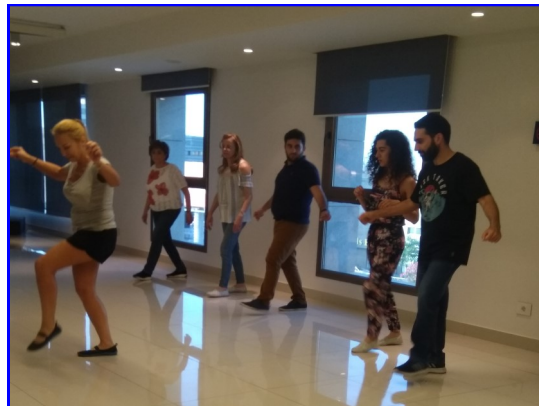
Poyiadjis, The President of D.S.A.L (Diplomatic Spouses' Association in Lebanon)

Mrs. Sadia Ferdous, the President of A.A.A, Autistic Awareness Association in Lebanon, Mrs. Ghada Hayek Makhoul. The entrance of the Assembly Hall went blue during the concert, in support of A.A.A by the initiative of Mrs. Stalo Habibi, President of C.C.L.A, as the whole month of April is dedicated to Autism.

The Cyprus Community in Lebanon Association hopes to organize many more art and culture events in the near future, to build bridges between people and build stronger communities.



Dancing workshop at our Cultural center



Following our members demand, three dance workshops were offered by Mrs. Marilena Caponis during May and June 2018.

In a joyful and funny atmosphere, attendees were able to learn the basic steps of **Sirtaki** and get used to the musical rhythm accordingly.

Those who are interested in learning Sirtaki dance steps next semester, are kindly requested to register by sending us an email.



Memories, memories...

A wink from the past, bringing back memories alive!

Some of us might have lived those moments, some others may be too young. This section dedicated to the past helps the new generation discover how their parents or grand parents used to live.

In this issue, we selected from our archive a picture taken in 1955, in the occasion of a bal given at the Saint Georges Hotel, and a picture of the national Day in 1967.



We would highly appreciate your contribution helping us keep those memories alive by sending us documents, photos or articles from your personal archive.



Conference: The relations between Phoenicians and Greeks
Φοινίκη 2500 BC–539 BC


Phoenicia Φοινίκη, an ancient Greek term meaning "deep red purple" was a thalassocratic Semitic civilization that originated in the coastal areas of Lebanon with colonies reaching Carthage and even the Atlantic Ocean, spread across the Mediterranean between 1500 BC and 300 BC. On May 11, **Dr. Naji Karam**, (Strasbourg University) specialized in Phoenician archeology together with **Dr. Maha El Khalil Chalabi**, UNESCO goodwill Ambassador and founder of the *International Association To Save Tyre*, and the *League of the Cannanite, Phoenician and Punic Cities*, exposed the interactive relations between these two major seafaring nations according to historical periods and events. The conference was followed a week later by a cultural guided journey on both archeological sites and a special visit to the artisanal village "*Les Ateliers de Tyr*".

According to the lecturers, Phoenicians were among the greatest traders of their time and owed much of their prosperity to trade. *Phoenicia* is used to allude to the major export of the region, cloth dyed Tyrian purple derived from the hypobranchial gland of the mollusk called *Murex* sea-snail, and referred to the major Cannanite port towns organized in city-states politically independent. At first, they traded mainly with the Greeks, trading wood, slaves, glass and powdered Tyrian purple, a red-violet-purple dye used by the Greek elite to color garments. Phoenicians and Greeks

seemed to have split the sea in two: the Phoenicians sailed along and eventually dominated the southern shore, while the Greeks were active along the northern shores. The two cultures rarely clashed, and eventually settled into two spheres of influence, the Phoenician in the west and the Greek to the east.

Around 1050 BC, a Phoenician consonantal alphabet consisting of 22 letters with a strict and consistent form termed as an "*abjad*", a script that contains no vowels (from the first four letters *aleph, beth, gimel, and dalet*) became one of the most widely used writing systems, spread by merchants and maritime projects such as a unique virtual Mediterranean sea, North Africa, and Europe,

where it was adopted by the Greeks who developed it into an alphabetic script with distinct letters for vowels as well as consonants giving rise to the first true alphabet. Dr. Maha El Khalil Chalabi, presented an overview of the regional situation with a special focus on both archeological sites of Tyre, explaining in details each one of them with the different stages of excavations. Two short movies helped the audience appreciate different views and be aware of new trade across projects such as a unique virtual Mediterranean sea, and the new artisanal village named "*Les Ateliers de Tyr*".



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΣ ΒΗΡΥΤΟΥ
 COMMUNAUTÉ HELLENIQUE DE BIENFAISANCE DE BEYROUTH

The Greek Community of Beirut
 In collaboration with
 The International Association to Save Tyre, A.I.S.T.
 Has the pleasure to invite you to a conference by
 Dr. Maha El-Khalil Chalabi & Dr. Naji Karam
 on
 The Relations between Phoenicians and Greeks
 Friday May 11, at 6:30 pm
 At the Hellenic Cultural Center
 Dekwaneh, Parallel Towers 232, Bloc A, 3rd floor.

A cultural guided journey is planned Saturday May 12 on site together with a visit of the "Village de L'Artisanat"

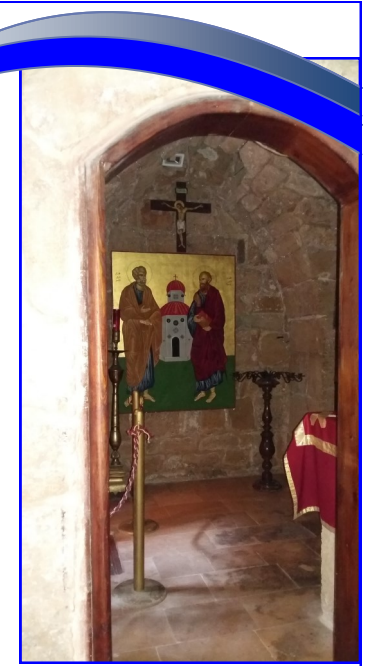
As places are limited, kindly reserve either by calling 01-493467/8 or by sending an email to comhel@idm.net.lb



The Greek Column

Day out to the South of Lebanon

On May 19, following the conference related to the relations between Phoenicians and Greeks, the Greek Community of Beirut organized a guided tour to the South of Lebanon. It was an opportunity to discover in Saida St.Paul sanctuary together with both Tyre's archeological sites.

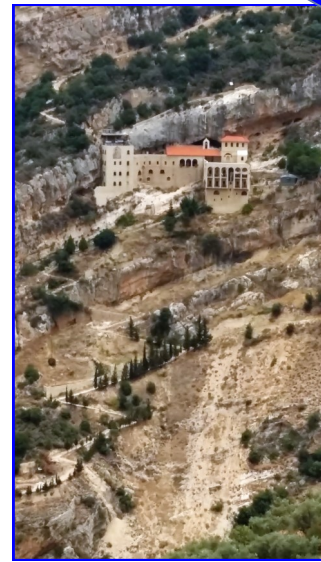


The visitors were able to discover the region, visit the "Ateliers de Tyre" and admire the craftsmen workshops and creations explained by Dr. Maha Chalabi, before enjoying a tasteful lunch by the sea!





On June 30, the Greek community members went on a cultural guided journey to discover some of the most beautiful monasteries located in North Lebanon. Six monasteries were on the list: Our Lady of Kaftoun, Our Lady of Hammatoura, Our Lady of Fervent Intersection, St. Jack the Persian, Our Lady of the Guardian and of course Balamand Monastery where a delicious lunch was offered by the Monastery. Reverent **Father Justinos Dib** was guiding the journey explaining in details each of the six sites and ending each of the visit with a prayer dedicated to the patron Saint.



A view of Our Lady of Hamatoura.
Father Justinos presenting the Monastery of Kaftoun.



Al Chafiaa Al Harra, the red bricks monastery built by Fth. Kassianos exactly as the Monasteries of Mount Athos, with its impressive bells tower and beautiful mosaics.

Father Justinos explaining the origin of each sacred image.



Most monasteries of the region have existed long time ago. Since the 80ies, some of the old ones are being brought back to life by a new generation of monks and nuns. On a landscape of steeped cliffs amid olive trees stands the **Kaftoun convent** with its tiny chapel cut from the rock. The monastery houses a priceless and unique double-faced Byzantine icon (110cm X80cm) of hieratic style and dating from XI century. It contains inscriptions in the three languages: Arabic, Greek and Syriac. In Koura district, in the northern side region of Kousba (meaning "hidden") is the

monastery of Our Lady of Hamatoura, built in the rocky hollow of a high cliff which overlooks the holy valley of Kadisha. As the access to the monastery is very difficult, visitors were able to see it from the closest point, where the bus was able to park. The most unusual monastery in Lebanon is definitely the monastery of Our Lady of Bdebbba, known as Our Lady Of Fervent Intersection, with its impressive outline and red bricks cupolas rising above a hill on the Koura plateau.



Inside the beautiful church of Balamand monastery.

Father Justinos summarizing the story of the Belmont Monastery.

Father Justinos with Sister Catherine.

Inside the chapel of the convent.



Known as "**Pearl Of the East**", stands The **Balamand Patriarchal monastery**, the center of an Antiochian Greek Orthodox monastery since 1603, dedicated to the Virgin Mary and to St-George. The nature of the site suggests that an early Byzantine monastery may have existed at the site. It is certain, however, that Cistercian monks from France founded the monastery of **Our Lady of Belmont** in 1157, as the first and most important of several Cister-

cian establishments in the Levant. After a delicious lunch offered at Balamand Monastery, we head to Mar Yacoub in Kuba region. Our last visit was the monastery of the Watchman as Saydet El Natour dating from the Crusades period where we met Sis. Catherine and visit the attractive cloister and frescoes of the church., executed in a Byzantine style.





Greek courses Official exams



On May 15, the official exams for the Greek Language Certificate took place at our Center. This year, 16 students presented the written and oral exam that were sent to The Greek Language Center of Greece.

Congratulations to all the students who have passed with success their exams and obtained their official certificate.



The school year 2017-2018 is over. All the students were able to enjoy their own party, one for the kids set early June and another one for the adults set on June 13. Good luck to each one of you and hope will meet again next fall semester!



Congratulations to Farah and Thanos Leousis for their beautiful baby girl named Ariana, born June 4 at 11am. Best wishes for the new blessing in your family

End of the year dance at the Lycée Libano-Allemand



On June 18, Greek dance was honored by the students of the Lycée Libano-Allemand who performed a traditional "Zorba dance" on Theodorakis music, taken from the famous movie "Zorba the Greek"(Nikos Kazantzakis).

